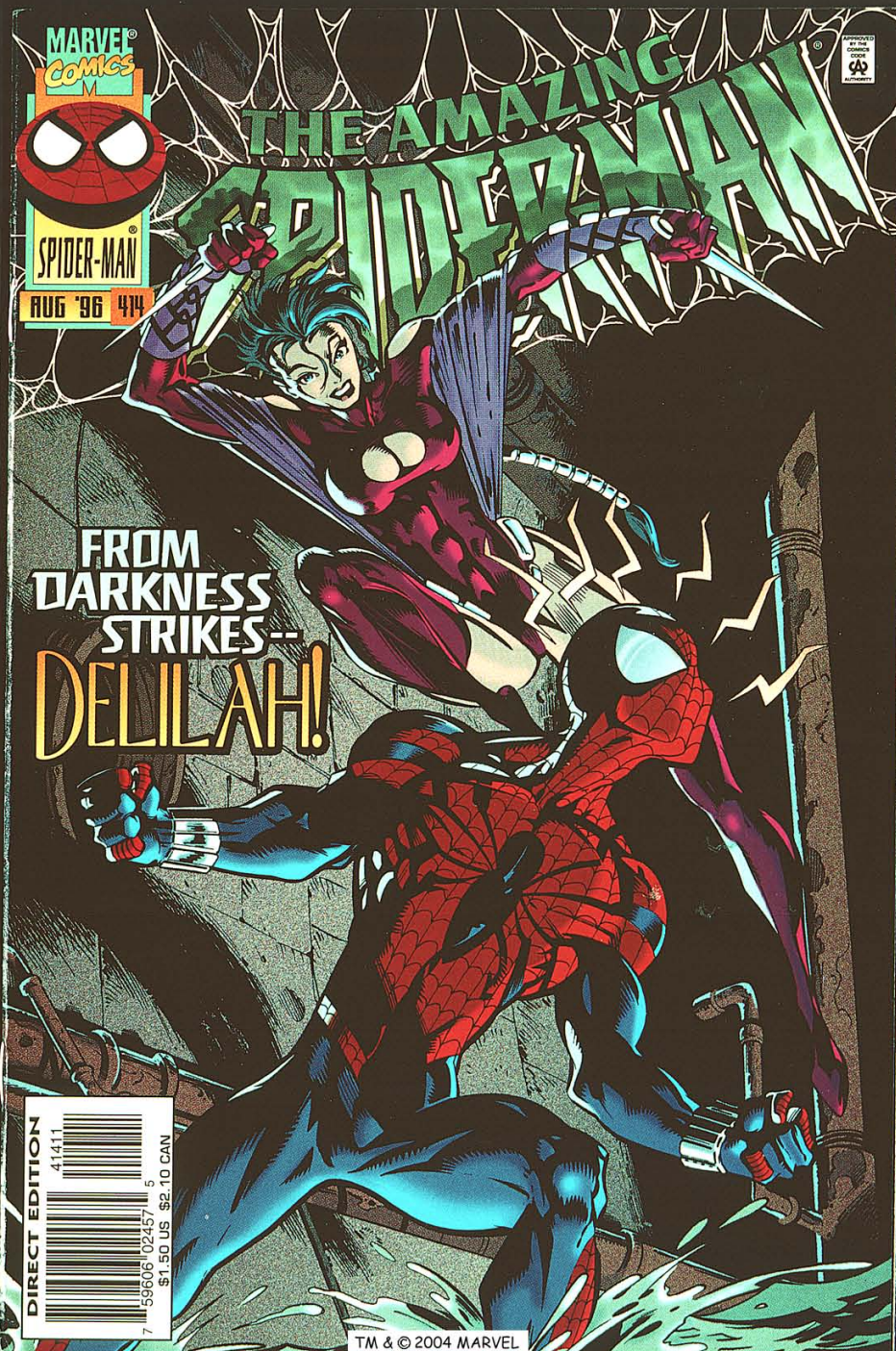




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AUG '96 414

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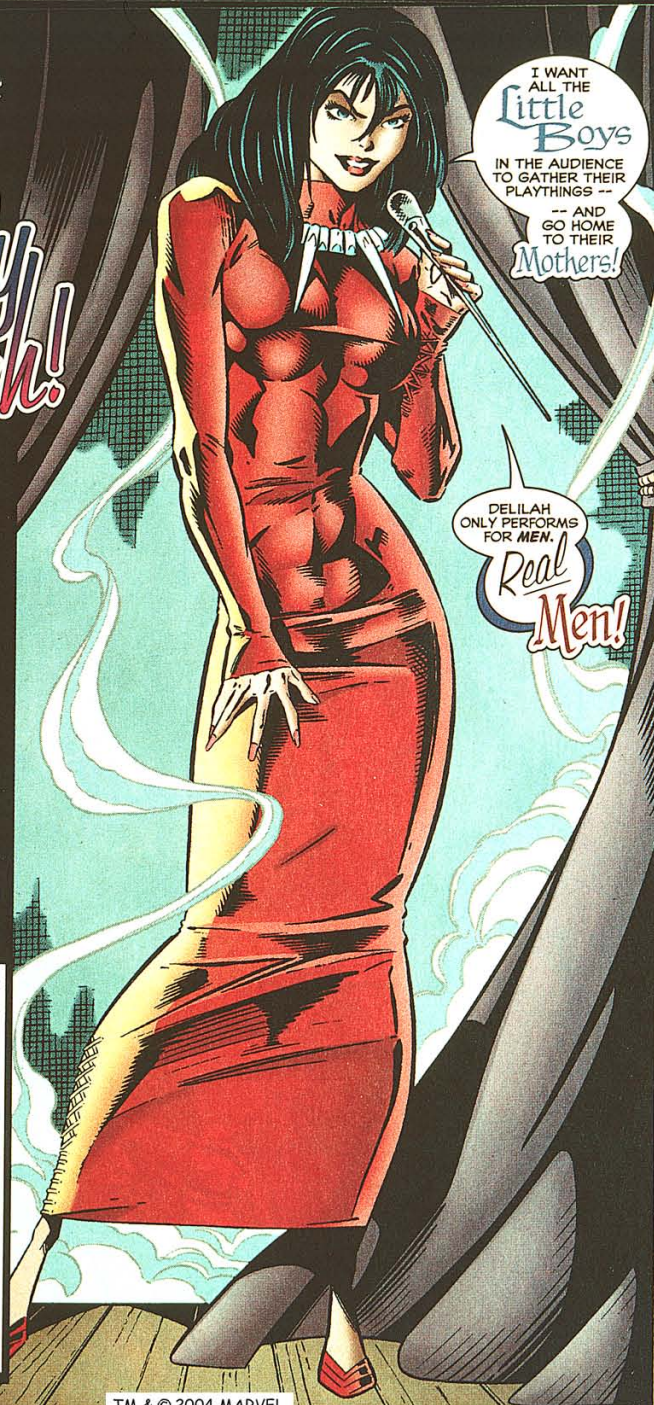
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A Most Offbeat Tale
Starring:
THE AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN

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I WANT
ALL THE
Little
Boys
IN THE AUDIENCE
TO GATHER THEIR
PLAYTHINGS --
-- AND
GO HOME
TO THEIR
Mothers!

DELILAH
ONLY PERFORMS
FOR MEN.
Real
Men!

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I FEEL IT'S ONLY FAIR TO WARN YOU THAT I AM NOT YOUR TYPICAL SONGSTRESS!

I HAVE NEVER SING IN FRONT OF A LIVE AUDIENCE BEFORE TONIGHT, BUT THIS IS A VERY SPECIAL OCCASION!

I AM HERE TO HONOR A MOST UNIQUE INDIVIDUAL! HIS NAME IS Don Vito Torrance!

-- AND THIS IS THE LAST DAY OF HIS LIFE!

GARR

YOU GOTTA BE CRAZY, LADY!

Y-YA ACED THE DON --! I CERTAINLY Hope SO...



I WENT TO CONSIDERABLE AND Effort Expense TO FULFILL THIS PARTICULAR CONTRACT.

-- AND I WOULD BE \$5000 DISAPPOINTED IF IT HAD ALL BEEN IN VAIN!

THANK YOU FOR NOT BLEEDING ON THE DRESS, GENTLEMEN.



YOU HAVE SAVED MY EMPLOYER THE COST OF A NEW ONE!

I TRUST ALL WENT WELL.

OF COURSE!

THAT'S WHY YOU CONTINUE TO HIRE ME!

I HAVE ANOTHER ASSIGNMENT. SOMETHING A LITTLE... DIFFERENT!

00000! I LOVE A CHALLENGE!



HE'S Cute! HOW SOON DO YOU WANT HIM Dead?!



MARY JANE, DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD TELL THE DOCTORS...

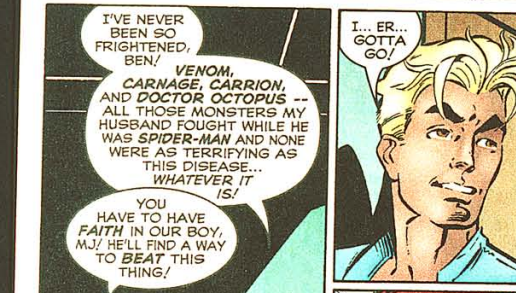
... THAT PETE'S A CLONE?

WHAT GOOD WOULD IT DO?

THEY CAN'T STOP CLONE DEGENERATION --

-- IF THAT'S WHAT PETE HAS --

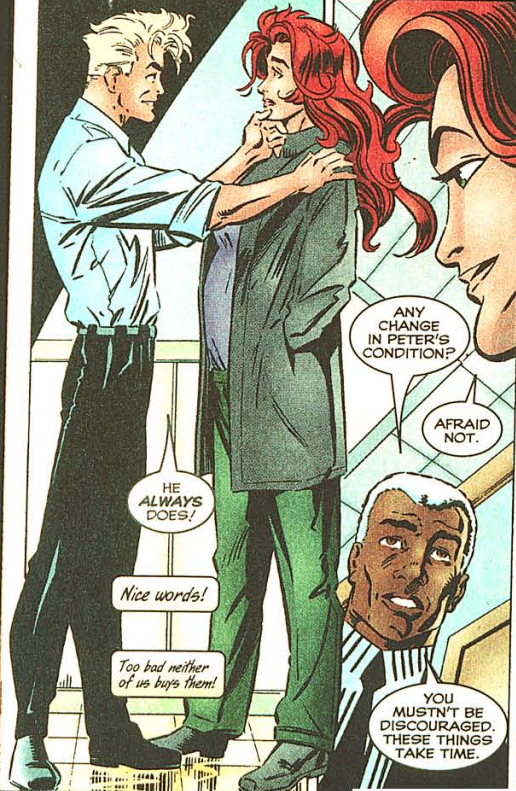
-- AND HE'D ONLY BECOME A SCIENTIFIC CURIOSITY IN THEIR EYES!



I'VE NEVER BEEN SO FRIGHTENED, BEN!

VENOM, CARNAGE, CARRION, AND DOCTOR OCTOPUS -- ALL THOSE MONSTERS MY HUSBAND FOUGHT WHILE HE WAS SPIDER-MAN AND NONE WERE AS TERRIFYING AS THIS DISEASE... WHATEVER IT IS!

YOU HAVE TO HAVE FAITH IN OUR BOY, M.J. HE'LL FIND A WAY TO BEAT THIS THING!



HE ALWAYS DOES!

Nice words!

Too bad neither of us buys them!



I... ER... GOTTA GO!

BUT I'LL BE BACK!

AND I'LL BE HERE!

MARY JANE --!



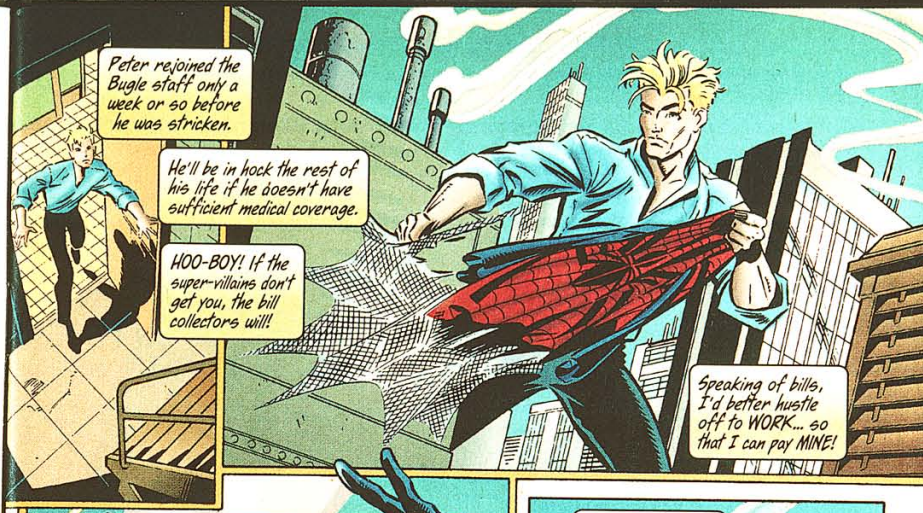
BY THE WAY, HAS JONAH BEEN IN FOR A VISIT? HE SEEMS TO HAVE TURNED UP MISSING, AND I ASSUMED HE WAS HERE!

IF I know J. JONAH JAMESON, the tightwad publisher of the DAILY BUGLE, he's probably meeting with his group insurance carrier --

-- trying to find some loophole so that they can weasel out of Pete's MEDICAL BILLS!



Missing --?!

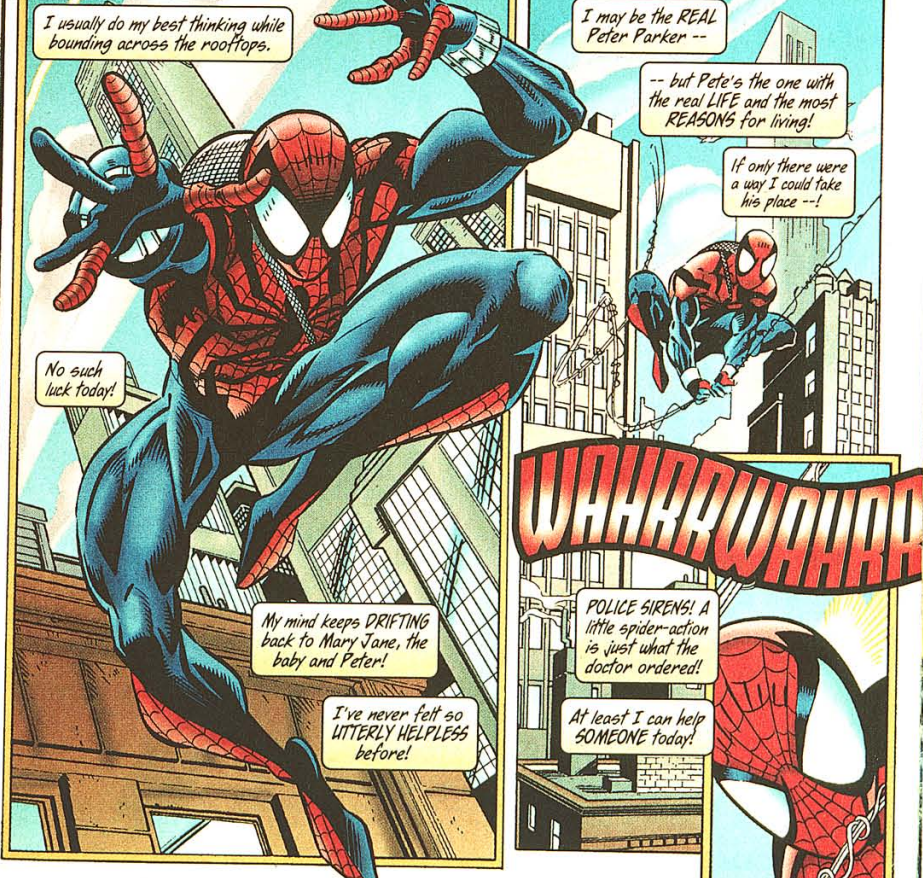


Peter rejoined the Bugle staff only a week or so before he was stricken.

He'll be in hock the rest of his life if he doesn't have sufficient medical coverage.

HOO-BOY! If the super-villains don't get you, the bill collectors will!

Speaking of bills, I'd better hustle off to WORK... so that I can pay MINE!



I usually do my best thinking while bounding across the rooftops.

I may be the REAL Peter Parker --

-- but Pete's the one with the real LIFE and the most REASONS for living!

If only there were a way I could take his place --!

No such luck today!

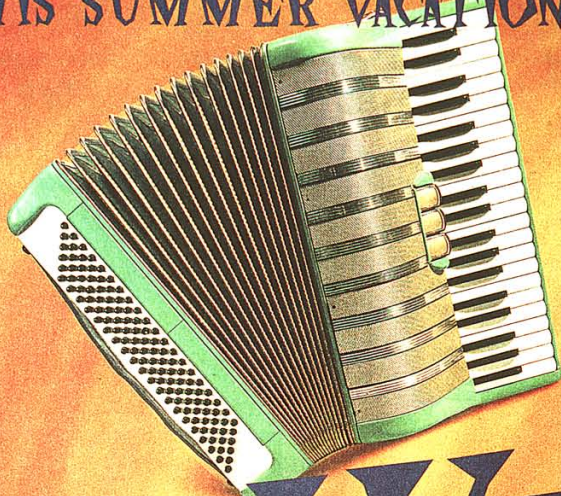
My mind keeps DRIFTING back to Mary Jane, the baby and Peter!

I've never felt so LITTERLY HELPLESS before!

POLICE SIRENS! A little spider-action is just what the doctor ordered!

At least I can help SOMEONE today!

THIS SUMMER VACATION...



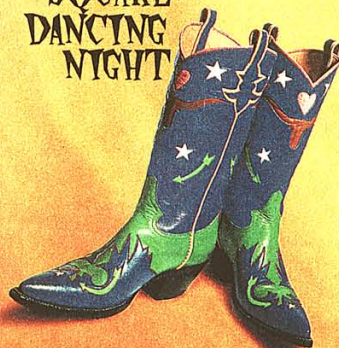
NO
FAMILY
TALENT
SHOW

WE
SWEAR.



NO ARTS
AND CRAFTS
HOUR

NO
SQUARE
DANCING
NIGHT



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UH-OH! Looks like even THAT was too much to hope for!

I'M OFFICER HOCKNEY, SIR! COULD YOU PLEASE TELL US WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS, HOCKNEY?

I WAS ROBBED!

BY A COSTUMED MADMAN WHO USED THESE RIDICULOUS RINGS AGAINST ME!

MAC'S JEW

THE RINGER --?!

I can just add him to the SHOCKER, WILL O' THE WISP and DRAGON MAN!

RINGS--?!

THAT M.O. SOUNDS LIKE THE RINGER...

BUT HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD!

I ASSURE YOU GENTLEMEN, THIS MAN WAS QUITE ALIVE!

I know it's gotta be my imagination, but it suddenly seems like someone called a REUNION of every old baddie Pete or I ever faced! SHEESH. The way my luck's been running, it's only a matter of time before GRIZZLY resurfaces!

Beating the cross town traffic in my own unique style, I soon arrive at WORK --

-- to the accompaniment of a shattered COFFEE POT!

WANT ME TO MOP THAT SPILL, SHIRLEY?

NO THANKS, BEN!

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, I'M QUITE CAPABLE OF HANDLING THINGS ON MY OWN!

Uh... SURE. WHATEVER YOU SAY!

I DON'T NEED HELP FROM YOU... OR ANYONE ELSE!

DON'T TAKE IT PERSONAL, REILLY. THE LADY ISN'T HERSELF TODAY.

YOU'RE NOT THE CAUSE OF HER IRE, JUST THE RECIPIENT!

WHAT'S BOTHERING HER, BUZZ?

I DON'T FEEL IT'S MY PLACE TO SAY!

ALL RIGHT, I WON'T PRY --

-- BUT LET ME KNOW IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO!

YOU CAN START BY DRAWING ME A VANILLA LATTE!

TOPPED WITH CINNAMON!

LOOK WHO'S HERE... DESIREE AND THE USUAL SUSPECTS!

WE WERE PASSING BY, AND I THOUGHT I'D LOOK IN ON MY FAVORITE CAFFEINE JOCKEY!

I'M REAL GLAD TO SEE YOU, DESIREE!

YOU AND EVERY OTHER MALE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

SORRY I HAD TO DUCK OUT ON YOU THE OTHER DAY! YOU HEAR ANY NEWS ABOUT JESSICA?

I'VE TRIED CALLING, BUT HER PHONE'S DISCONNECTED!

* IN SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN #6 - Apologetic Rail!

JESSICA! PERFECTION STANDS BEFORE YOU, AND YOU ASK ABOUT HERP!

ALL I KNOW IS THAT SHE DROPPED OUT OF CENTENNIAL UNIVERSITY AND VANISHED!

DESIREE -- WAIT!

FORGET IT, MR. REILLY! DESIREE WINTHROP IS NO MAN'S SECOND CHOICE!

HOO-BOY! The hits just keep on coming!

Desiree will never understand my interest in JESSICA!

She's another lost soul I couldn't help!

Another FAILURE in an unending line!

SORRY I WAS SO SHORT WITH YOU, BEN!

I'VE BEEN A LITTLE TENSE LATELY...

WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT, SHIRLEY?

MY EX-HUSBAND IS SUDDENLY MAKING NOISES ABOUT SPENDING MORE TIME WITH OUR SON!

GARON IS BAD NEWS! HE'S DANGEROUS... AND UNDEPENDABLE!

PLUS HE HAS A TENDENCY TO DISAPPEAR WHEN YOU NEED HIM MOST!

I'M AFRAID HE MAY BE INVOLVING DEVON IN SOMETHING ILLICIT!

YOUR EX SOUNDS LIKE A PRETTY UNSAVORY CHARACTER!

WHERE'S THEIR NEXT MEETING?

Shirley gives me the details, and a few hours later --

-- after I finish my shift --

-- I find myself headed toward New York's CENTRAL PARK!

Though we wall-crawlers prefer skyscrapers to trees, I'm soon swinging through the greenery like a modern day TARZAN!

On the plus side... my SPIDER-SENSE warns me which branches to avoid!

On the negative... I don't even LIKE DEVON!

The kid's a total WACK JOB!

A mean-spirited, sarcastic PUNK!

But I OWE his mother!

She took me in, offered me a job when I was desperate!

SO... Uh... HOW YOU DOING IN SCHOOL?

LIKE YOU REALLY CARE!

YOU'RE ONLY SPENDING TIME WITH ME BECAUSE IT BURNS MOM!

WHAT'S YOUR SCAM, DAD?

WHY'D YOU SUDDENLY START SNIFFING AROUND?

YOU GOT ME WRONG, SON!

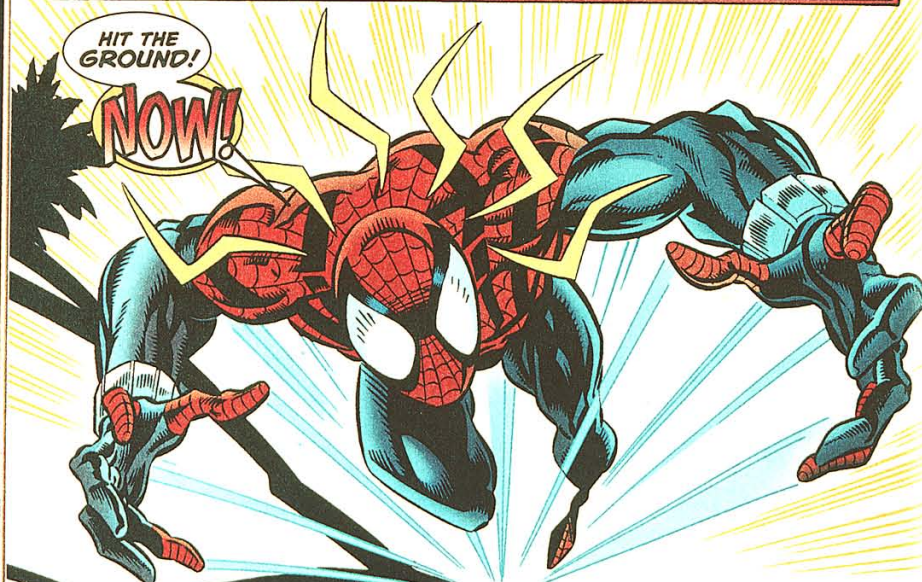
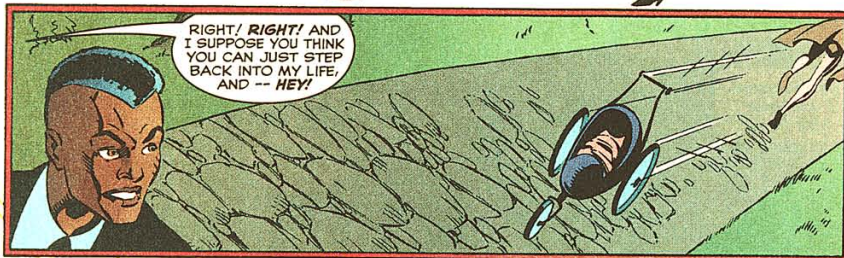
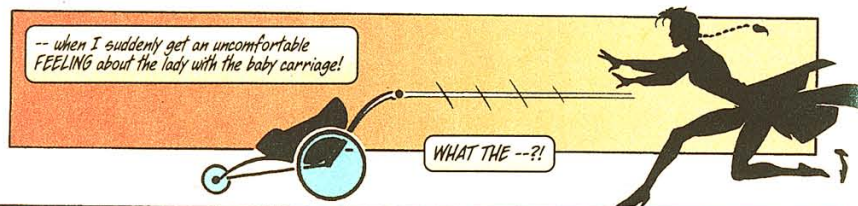
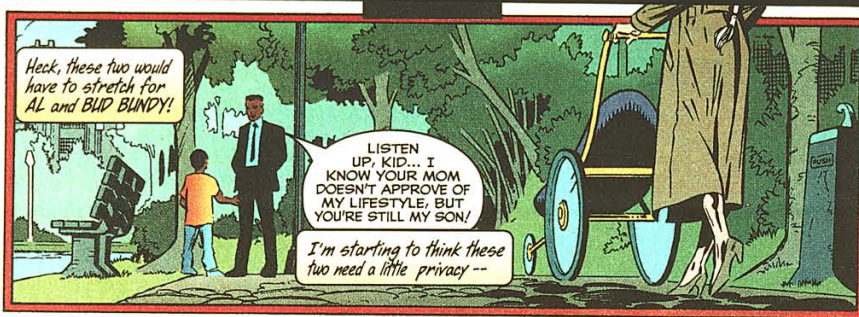
I HEARD ABOUT YOUR MOTHER GOING INTO DEBT TO REBUILD THE COFFEE SHOP AND FIGURED I COULD HELP!

YEAH... RIIIGHT!

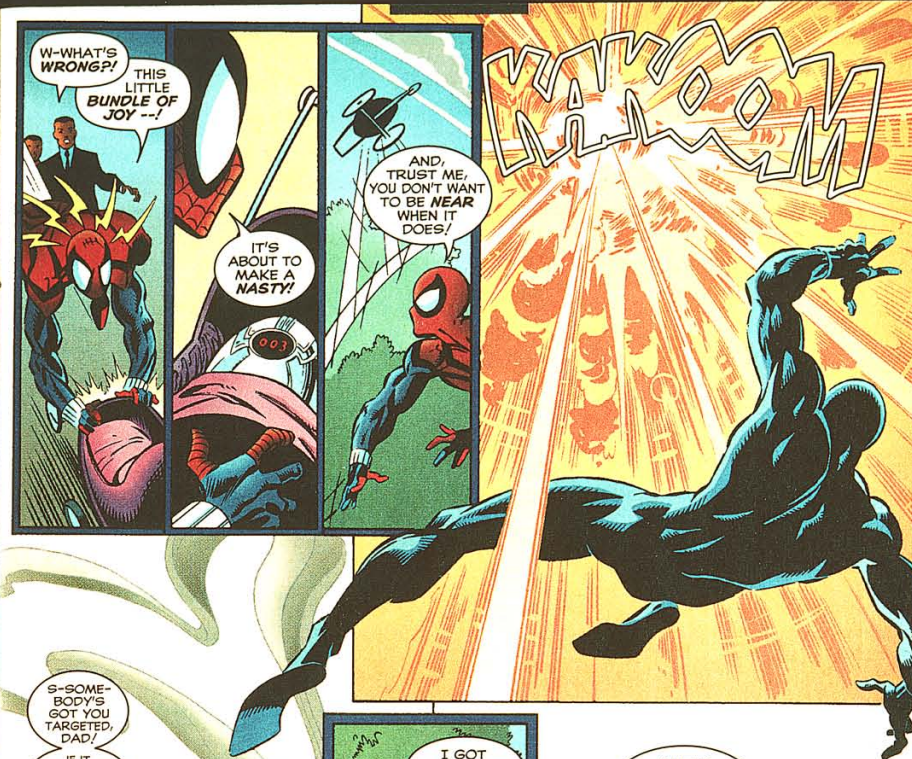
LIKE YOU'VE BEEN SOOO HELPFUL OVER THE YEARS!

IT'S WHAT YOUR MOTHER WANTED!

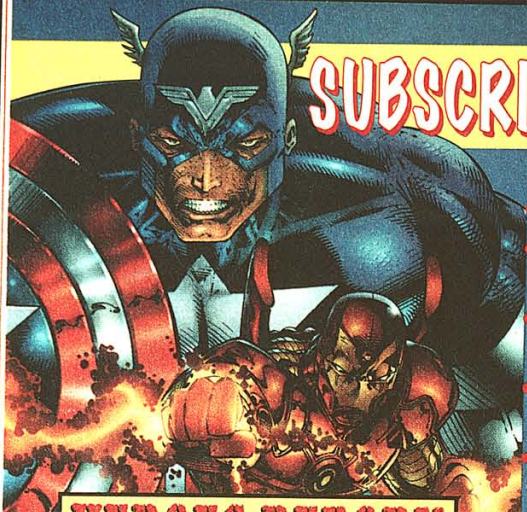
Not exactly WARD and the BEAVER!



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- ☐ UFO Ultraforce
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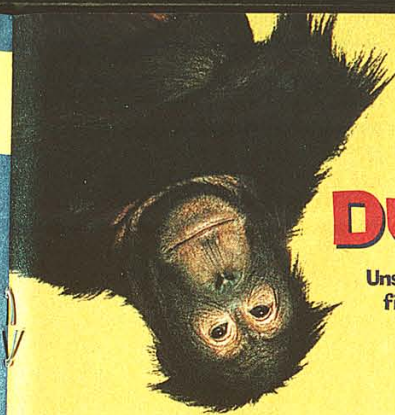
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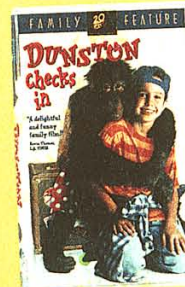
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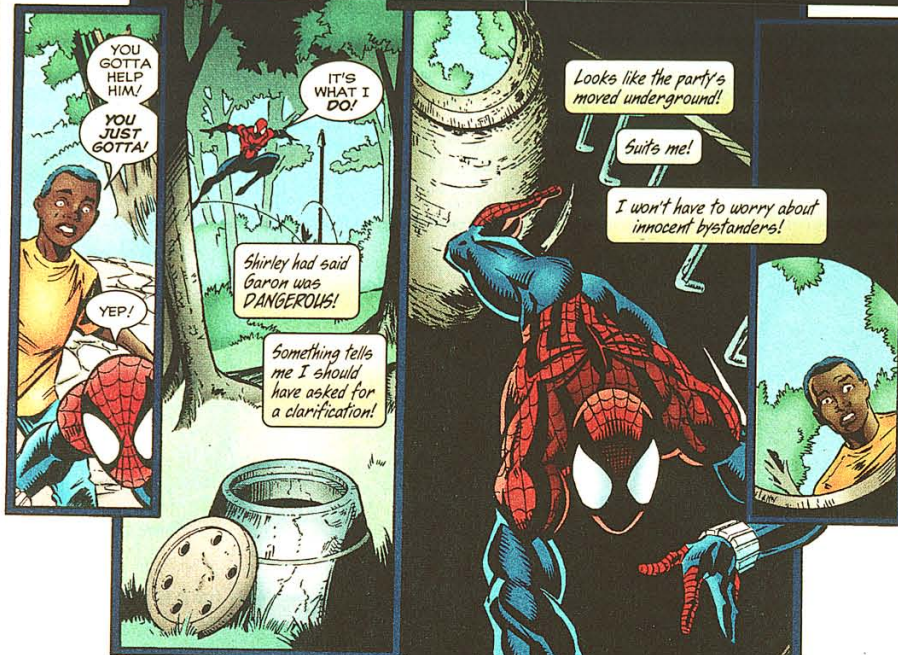
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YOU GOTTA HELP HIM!
YOU JUST GOTTA!

IT'S WHAT I DO!

Shirley had said Garon was DANGEROUS!

Something tells me I should have asked for a clarification!

Looks like the party's moved underground!

Suits me!

I won't have to worry about innocent bystanders!



MEAN-WHILE...

JONAH! JONAH! ARE YOU THERE --?!

ANSWER IF YOU CAN!

YOUR OFFICE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN LOCKED FROM THE INSIDE!

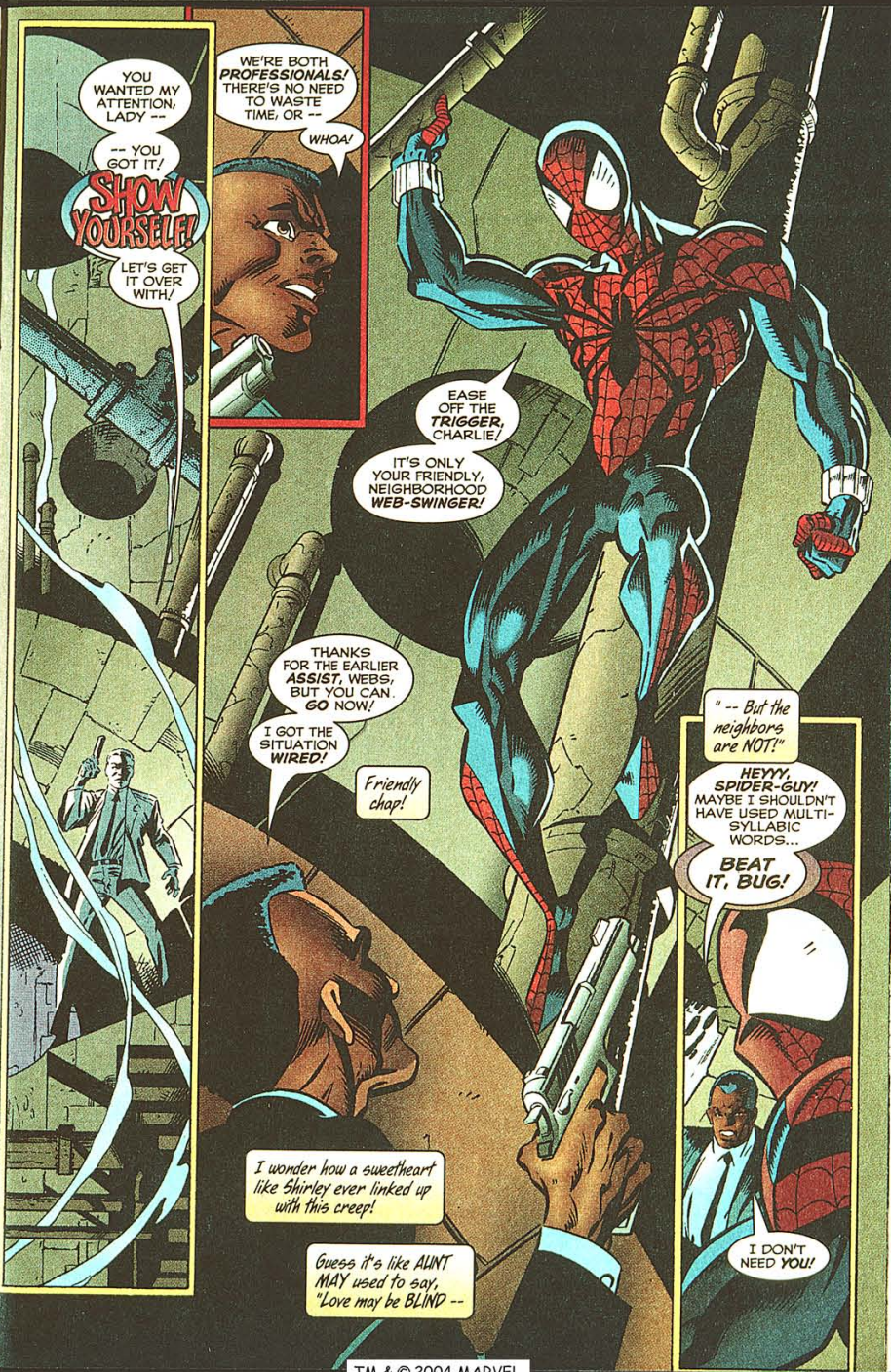


YOU COULD BE HURT, OR --
-- IT'S EMPTY!

THIS PLACE HAS BEEN RANSACKED, BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF JONAH JAMESON! NO WONDER HE NEVER MADE IT TO SEE PETER AT THE HOSPITAL!

WHERE IS HE?!

AS SEEN IN SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN #7 - Ransacker: Rolf



YOU WANTED MY ATTENTION, LADY --
-- YOU GOT IT!

SHOW YOURSELF!

LET'S GET IT OVER WITH!

WE'RE BOTH PROFESSIONALS! THERE'S NO NEED TO WASTE TIME, OR --
WHOA!

EASE OFF THE TRIGGER, CHARLIE!

IT'S ONLY YOUR FRIENDLY, NEIGHBORHOOD WEB-SWINGER!

THANKS FOR THE EARLIER ASSIST, WEBS, BUT YOU CAN GO NOW!

I GOT THE SITUATION WIRED!

Friendly chap!

-- But the neighbors are NOT!

HEYY, SPIDER-GUY! MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE USED MULTI-SYLLABIC WORDS...

BEAT IT, BUG!

I wonder how a sweetheart like Shirley ever linked up with this creep!

Guess it's like AUNT MAY used to say, "Love may be BLIND --

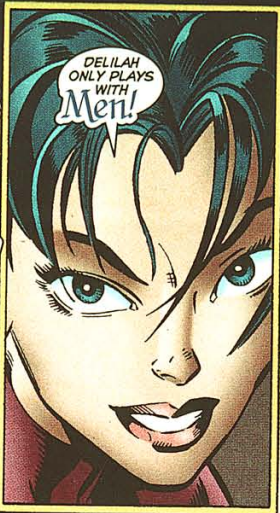
I DON'T NEED YOU!



00000!

ARE YOU TWO FIGHTING OVER LITTLE Me?

I USUALLY LOVE IT WHEN Males VIE FOR MY AFFECTIONS -- BUT YOU'RE SQUABBLING LIKE Little Boys!



DELILAH ONLY PLAYS WITH Men!



LET'S SEE IF EITHER OF YOU ARE WORTH MY TIME... EFFORT...

OR Passion!!

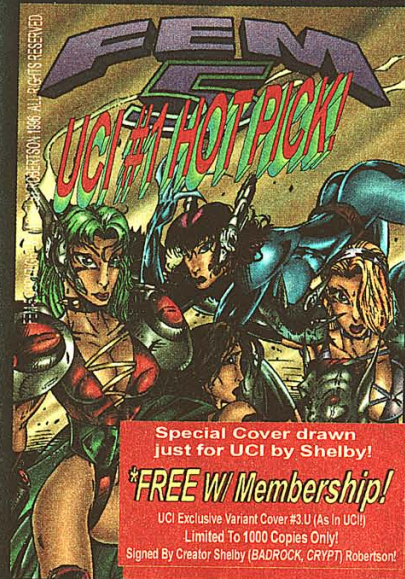
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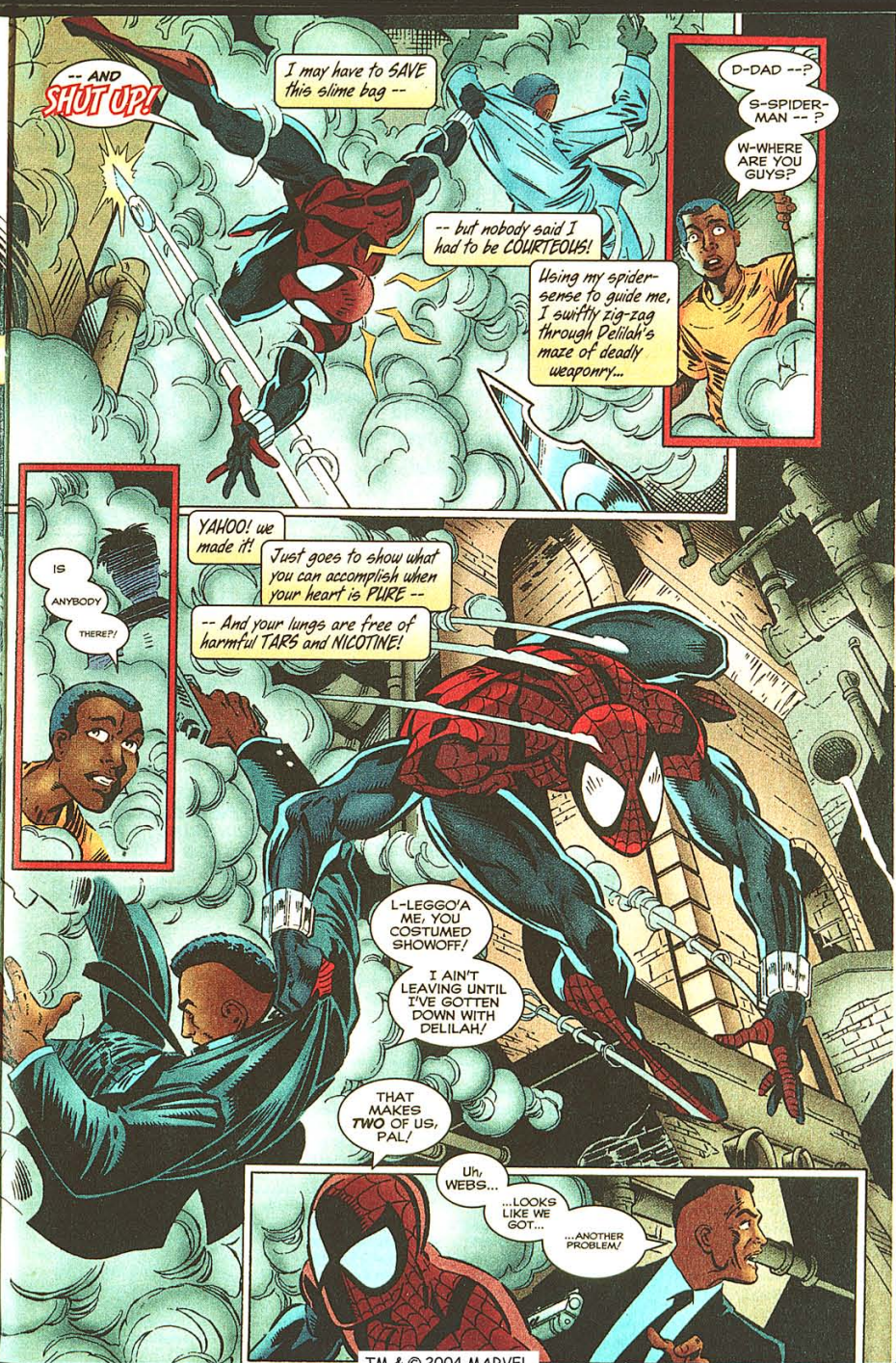
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INDEED YOU
MR. LEWIS!

I ASSUME
THIS
Handsome
LAD IS YOUR
SON.

HE COULD
GROW UP TO
BE A REAL
**Heart
Breaker**
-- IF
YOU'RE
WILLING TO
DEAL!

WHAT
DO YOU WANT,
DELILAH?



**My
Freedom!**

THIS
ASSIGNMENT
HAS BEEN FRAUGHT
WITH UNEXPECTED
COMPLICATIONS --
AND
I'D PREFER A
Graceful
EXIT!

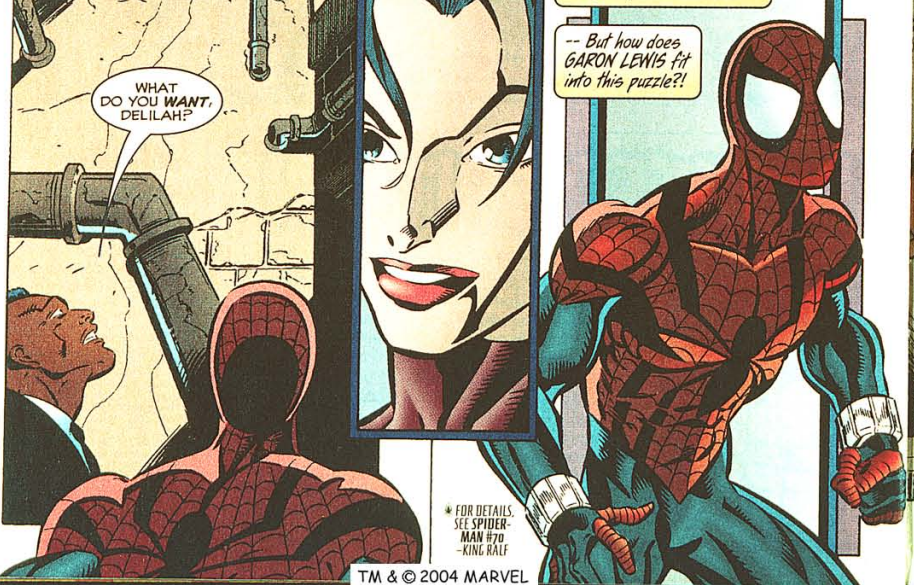
IT'S
YOURS.
BUT IF... AND
ONLY IF... YOU
GIVE ME A
NAME!
**WHO
COMMISSIONED
THIS HIT?**

YOU'RE
NEGOTIATING
WITH YOUR
SON'S LIFE AT
STAKE?
COLD!



I EXPECTED
NO LESS! MY
EMPLOYER'S
NAME IS...
HAMMERHEAD!

HAMMERHEAD!
I'd heard he was trying
to fill the vacuum left after
the fall of the **KINGPIN** --
-- But how does
GARON LEWIS fit
into this puzzle?!



*FOR DETAILS,
SEE SPIDER-
MAN #70
-- KING RALF



I'M PLEASED
WE COULD REACH AN
ACCOMMODATION,
MR. LEWIS.

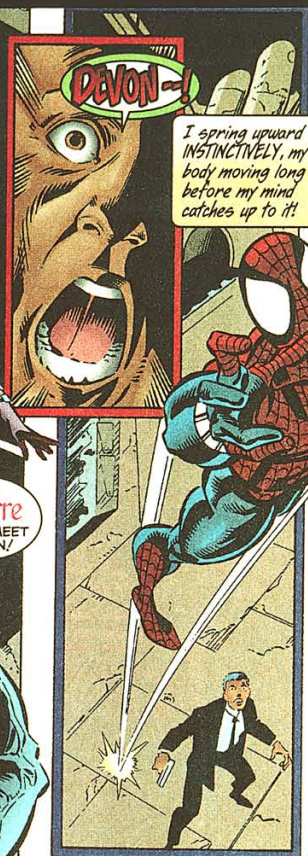
Ta-Ta!

I'M
Surre
WE'LL MEET
AGAIN!

Oh, I
ALMOST
FORGOT...

YOUR
Son!

Yuhuhuh!!!



DEVON!

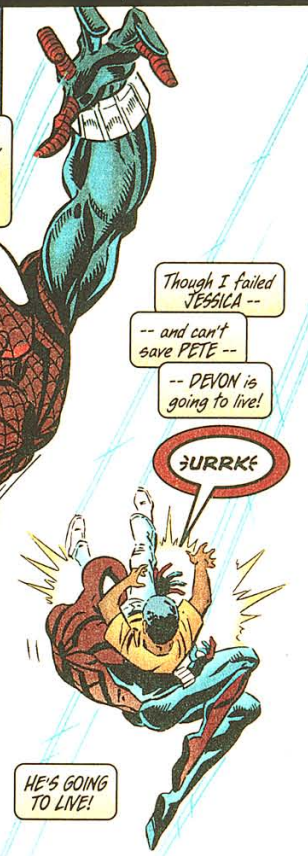
I spring upward
INSTINCTIVELY, my
body moving long
before my mind
catches up to it!



I-IS HE --?!

HE'LL BE
FINE!

ALTHOUGH
I'D STEP BACK
UNTIL HIS STOMACH
STABILIZES!



Though I failed
JESSICA --

-- and can't
save **PETE** --

-- **DEVON** is
going to live!

SURRKE

HE'S GOING
TO LIVE!



With no regard for
his fancy suit, Garon
Lewis rushes forward!

Lucky for him,
Devon manages
to hold his lunch --



--But my TEMPER isn't as easily restrained!

YOUR SON COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED, SLIMEBAG! WHAT'S YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HAMMERHEAD? WHY DID HE HIRE DELILAH TO CAP YOU?!

TALK TO ME, MAN! WHAT'S YOUR STORY? WHO ARE YOU?!

I'M ASSIGNED TO TASK FORCE SEVEN, A SPECIAL UNIT DEVOTED TO ORGANIZED CRIME.

I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU THOUGHT, WEB-MAN!

I... I'M SORRY!

KEEP YOUR APOLOGY.

B-BUT I THOUGHT --!

YOU SAW A BLACK MAN WITH A FAT WALLET AND SPLASHY CLOTHES!

SORRY YOU HAD TO GET INVOLVED, KID! YOUR MAMA WAS ALWAYS AFRAID YOU'D BE ENDANGERED BY MY WORK!

GUESS THAT'S WHY SHE WENT BACK TO HER MAIDEN NAME AFTER WE DIVORCED!

I DON'T CARE, DAD! I'M COOL WITH THE RISK AS LONG AS WE'RE TOGETHER!

DELILAH ALREADY MENTIONED MY NAME, BUT I'M GARON LEWIS... DETECTIVE GARON LEWIS...!

YEAH... WELL... I'VE GOT TO REPORT THIS INCIDENT. I'LL CALL YOU SOON!

REAL SOON!

A CENTENNIAL DRAWING OF THE SWORD:



CHAOS ACROSS THE POND IN EXCALIBUR #100

During the late '80's, the ever-burgeoning X-Men mythos spilled over from the shores of the U.S. to those of the U.K. when Chris Claremont, Alan Davis, and Mark Farmer launched a new series called EXCALIBUR, featuring a new mutant team led (interestingly enough) by non-mutant super hero Brian Braddock (the hero formerly known as Captain Britain, now called Britanic). The team included Braddock's girlfriend, the shape-shifting Meggan, and a trio of expatriate X-Men: Shadowcat, Nightcrawler, and Rachel Summers, the second Phoenix.

In classic X-Team fashion, members have come and gone, lived and died, and grown and evolved, but many of those founding members are still on hand, along with some newer members, and some high profile guest stars, as EXCALIBUR celebrates its milestone 100th issue -- courtesy of scribe supreme Warren Ellis, rising superstar artist Casey Jones, and ace embellisher Tom Simmons.

As the issue begins, the sinister machinations of Black Air and the London branch of the infamous Hellfire Club have apparently come to fruition. London is in flames, due to the Hellfire Club's diabolical Red Queen unleashing the demonic fury of the legendary "Devil Under London," and only the members of Excalibur have a chance to stem the tide of chaos! But you say that's not enough mayhem for all you mutant maniacs? Wait! There's more! While London's burning, the X-Men's Cyclops, Phoenix, Archangel, and Psylocke pay a visit to Muir Isle, to reveal to Moira MacTaggart the horrible truth about the being known as Onslaught... only to find that Moira has some grim revelations of her own! Now the X-Men -- and you -- will discover the shocking secrets of "The Xavier Protocols!"

FANTASTIC FOUR TAKES THE FF FACELIFT: INTO ONSLAUGHT!

You've drooled over his incredible artistry in the BISHOP limited series, and his run on EXCALIBUR left you panting for even more... now, Charismatic Carlos Pacheco has taken a sabbatical from the misadventures of mutants in Britain to take over the penning chores on Marvel's First Family: the FANTASTIC FOUR! Carlos has redesigned the FF's uniforms, giving the Richards clan a jazzy new look that is sure to blow you away!

And Carlos is certainly coming onboard with a bang, as this week marks the Fantastic Four's dramatic entrance into the escalating madness of Onslaught! When Charles Xavier shows up at Four Freedoms Plaza with grave news about the future of mutantkind, Reed Richards is forced to ponder the notion that his son, Franklin, an extremely powerful mutant, might be better off raised at Xavier's school... that is, until the ultra-powerful Onslaught shows up to wreak havoc on the fabulous foursome and their beloved Franklin!

Also contributing to this thrill-a-minute installment of the World's Greatest Comic Magazine are longtime FF writer, Two-Fisted Tom DeFalco, and Carlos' EXCALIBUR collaborator, astounding inker Bob Wiacek. It's a bold new beginning for comics' most famous quartet -- but if Onslaught has his way, it's only the beginning of the end!

WULPEN BULLETINS

A TRIPLE-X EVENT!



As if new Marvel Editor in Chief Bob Harras didn't have enough trouble on his hands coordinating the massive Onslaught crossover, planning the launch of a slew of new titles for later this year, and generally shepherding the crazy editorial staff toward new heights of glory, now Beleguered Bob gets to go home to a swiftly X-tended family of his own!

On April 2, Bob's wife Ann Stavola gave birth to not one, not two, but three new little Harras boys: Nicholas, Christopher, and Matthew. We're happy to report that all are in the pink of health, and one can only wonder if any of the Harras young'uns are going to develop mutant powers in their teens, like their dad's uncanny editorial instincts, or his ability to hold a conversation while walking at approximately 25 mph.

When asked if he thought it would be a challenge taking care of three new children, Bob was reluctant to say, "I imagine that it will be difficult, but not as difficult as getting Ralph Macchio to come into the office before noon!"

ON SALE THIS MONTH

- IRON MAN #23** Final Issue! Doom makes a deal with the insidious Phoenix to save Memento! This spine-tingling conclusion sets the stage for the launch of 2009: WORLD OF TOMORROW! By John Francis Moore and Jeff Lafferly!
- FANTASTIC FOUR #145** Four Freedoms Plaza is invaded by Onslaught! The mutant menace's objective: Kidnap Franklin Richards! By Tom DeFalco and Carlos Pacheco!
- INCREDIBLE HULK #443** Continued from CABLE #34! The mayhem of Onslaught sets the stage for a clash of titans, the Hulk vs. Cable! Keep your heads down! By Peter David and Angel Medina!
- IRON MAN #23D** Young Tony Stark -- the new Iron Man -- teams with his elder version's old ally, War Machine, to save Stark Enterprises! By Terry Kavanagh and Jimmy Cheung!
- PUNISHER #10** It's the last stand of the Garaci Family, as the Punisher faces down the combined forces of Jigsaw, Tombstone, and Matchmaker! By John Ostrander and Tom Lyle!
- ADVENTURES OF SPIDER-MAN #2** Another eil-n story in the animated style! The Vulture's back with a new scheme! By Neil Yonkov and Alex Saviuk!
- ANGEL #10** The return of the revenge-bent Angel! Now she's taken the Daily Bugle and staff hostage, and Phil Urich can't save them without blowing his secret! By Tom DeFalco and Josh Hoad!
- SPIDER-MAN #73** Peter Parker's dying, and there's nothing Spider-Man can do to help him... especially 'cause he's too busy battling the brutal Hammerhead in the same hospital! By Howard Mackie and John Romita, Jr.!
- WHAT IF? #2** "What if Spider-Man underwent an Arachnomorphosis?" In another reality, Spider-Man didn't become a hero -- he became an eight-legged monster! By Ben Raab and Ariel Olivetti!
- EXCALIBUR #100D** Double-sized, special! White London burns, EXCALIBUR faces off against Britain's Hellfire Club... and we learn the shocking secrets of the Xavier Protocols! Guest-starring the X-Men's Cyclops, Phoenix, Archangel, and Psylocke! By Warren Ellis and Casey Jones!
- X-MEN #116** Hoping to avoid Onslaught's insidious schemes, X-Men take refuge with Cable's star pupils, X-Force! Plus, what are Mr. Sinister's secret plans for Nate, and how do they play into the agenda of Onslaught? By Terry Kavanagh and Steve Skroce!

[WISH LIST]



I used to think of Devon as NASTY and MEAN-SPIRITED!

It never occurred to me that his sarcasm was only a SHIELD!

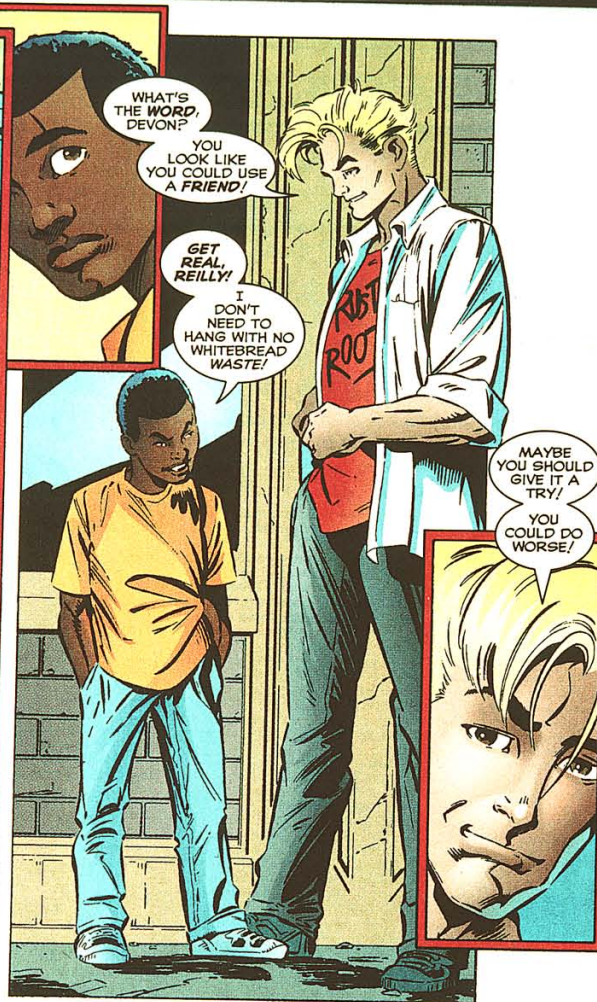
A protective cocoon to keep away the pain...

...and the loneliness!

He kind of reminds me of someone I once knew!

All he needs are the glasses --

-- And the science books!



WHAT'S THE WORD, DEVON?

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU COULD USE A FRIEND!

GET REAL, REILLY!

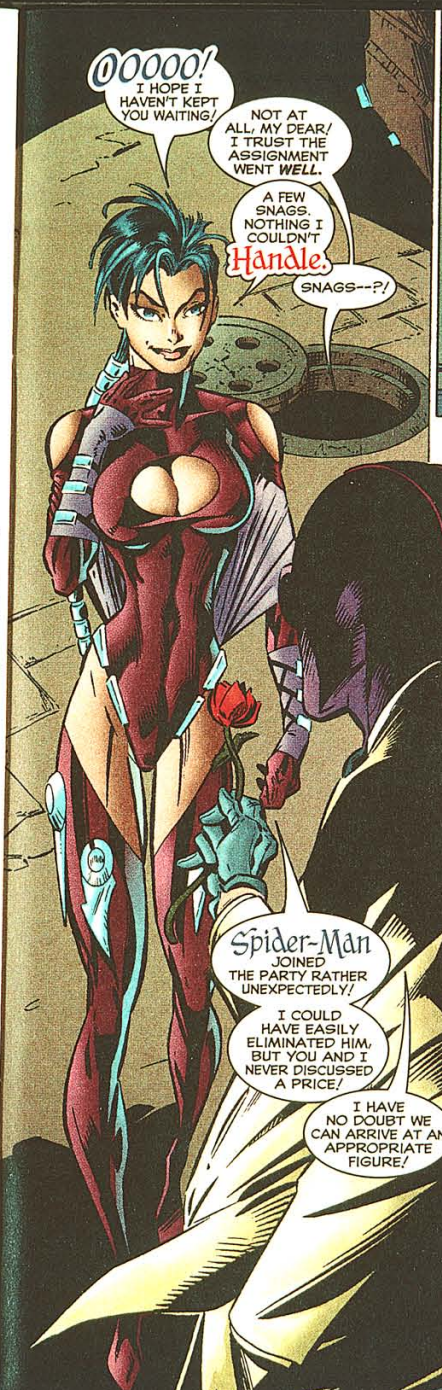
I DON'T NEED TO HANG WITH NO WHITEBREAD WASTE!

MAYBE YOU SHOULD GIVE IT A TRY!

YOU COULD DO WORSE!



DOUBT IT?



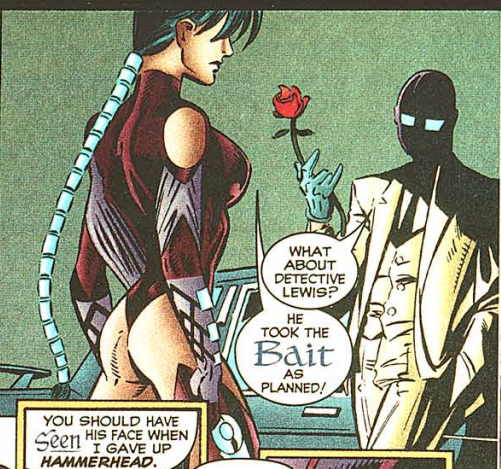
000000!
I HOPE I HAVEN'T KEPT YOU WAITING!

NOT AT ALL, MY DEAR! I TRUST THE ASSIGNMENT WENT WELL.

A FEW SNAGS. NOTHING I COULDN'T

Handle.

SNAGS---?!



WHAT ABOUT DETECTIVE LEWIS?

HE TOOK THE Bait AS PLANNED!

YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN HIS FACE WHEN I GAVE UP HAMMERHEAD.

EXCELLENT! LEWIS IS A PITBULL!

HE WILL SURELY COMPLICATE HAMMERHEAD'S STRUGGLE TO CONTROL THE UNDERWORLD!



THE ROSE IS PLEASED!

VERY PLEASED!

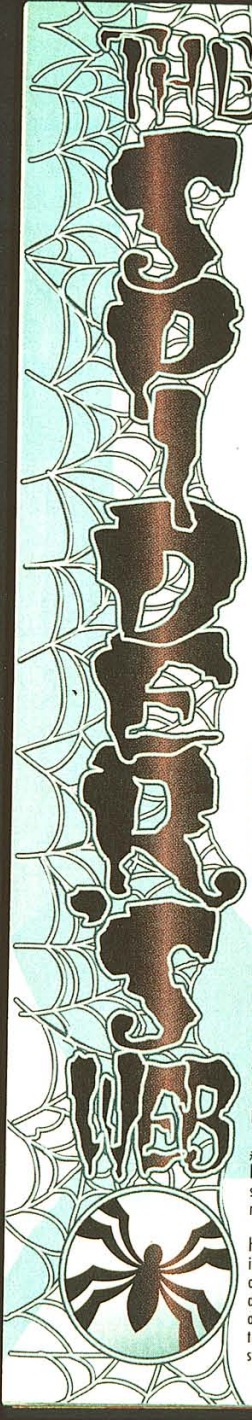
Spider-Man JOINED THE PARTY RATHER UNEXPECTEDLY!

I COULD HAVE EASILY ELIMINATED HIM, BUT YOU AND I NEVER DISCUSSED A PRICE!

I HAVE NO DOUBT WE CAN ARRIVE AT AN APPROPRIATE FIGURE!



NEXT
ONSLAUGHT



c/o Marvel Comics, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016
RALPH MACCHIO **MARK BERNARDO**
Editor Assistant Editor

Correspondents: If you don't want your full address printed, please let us know.

Dear Spider's Web,

I have been collecting AMAZING SPIDER-MAN since issue #147. Up until now, I have never written a letter to you (or any other letters page, for that matter). But issue #410 demanded a response from me.

First of all, the cover. It's the best I've seen yet! This issue is on my wall in the Hall of Fame. I must say that Mark Bagley is the perfect artist for this book. His is the best run since issues #210-250 (my all-time favorite). I hope he will be with us for a long time to come. Don't let him leave!

Tom DeFalco's first six issues of this book (including AMAZING SCARLET SPIDER #1-2) have been outstanding. I can't wait to see how he does if he ever gets a chance to do his own stories, away from the constraints of the Spider crossovers. I am extremely pleased with Peter's return. At first, I really hated the idea of Peter being the clone, but Ben's fresh attitude, and the new supporting characters, have really changed my mind.

Jeff Burnett
604 Wilson
Richmond, MO 64085

Glad to hear we've won you over, Jeff! We think what's upcoming will please you even more — especially now that we are letting Tom cut loose with some of his own awesome storylines without the constraints of the tight week-to-week crossovers!

And far be it from us to shamelessly plug another of our books (Yeah, right...) but we hope you're catching John Romita Jr.'s stunning artwork over in our companion title, SPIDER-MAN, seeing as how he is the artist responsible for the AMAZING run you mentioned! And if you thought this guy was good then...

Dear Spider-Man,

I just loved AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #410. The main reason is because I love Carnage! He is the greatest super-villain ever! I think he's even meaner than Doctor Doom!

Anyway, I have a theory about how Cletus Kasady's symbiote is escaping: Cletus is getting his symbiote out of his cell by sending it through the drain pipes. Then the symbiote gets out of the sewers and finds someone to prey on. Then, Cletus draws the symbiote back to himself through the

same drain pipes! Am I close?

Gabe Fejfar
114 S. Madison
O'Neill, NE

You're right on the money, Gabe, as was so shockingly revealed in SPECTACULAR #233! You were one of a small handful of letter writers who figured out the little mystery of the symbiote's escapes! Any guesses on the other mysteries out there in the Spideverse? (Who is this "Gaunt" guy anyway?)

Dear Web Guys,

All right, that's it! This time, you guys have gone too far! I didn't mind the whole cloning business. In fact, I think Scarlet Spider's costume was awesome, and he was much cooler than Spider-Man. Then, just as I'm getting used to the idea of two Spider-guys, you have Peter Parker quit! Ouch! That hurts! Then, you have Scarlet become Spider-Man. Then, you take away Peter's powers. That was quite a shocker, but I survived. You throw all this at us in such a short period of time that we don't have time to catch our breath!

Now, as if that wasn't enough, Carnage is taking over Ben Reilly! Don't get me wrong, the stories and art are all truly amazing, but hasn't Ben been through enough lately? Give the poor guy a rest!

I just wanted to tell you guys that you're doing a wonderful job. I read every Spider-Man comic you put out, and they are all great, including GREEN GOBLIN. Speaking of whom, can you give us a team-up between GG and the new Spider-Man?

Trey Dubose
135 Cannon Street, Apt. R
Charleston, SC 29403

C'mon, Trey! Would it really be interesting to read if things were always going smoothly for Spidey? We know what you mean, though, and we think you'll see we're making an effort to give Ben more of a real life.

It remains to be seen whether Ben will team up with the new Green Goblin as Spidey — though they did cross paths back when Ben was Scarlet Spider!

Dear Marvel,

Re: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #410.
So we finally learn "The Secret of the Skeleton!" But, as is the bent of the

Spider-titles of late, that answer just left us with more questions! Sigh!

So Ben's girl is the daughter of the burglar who killed Uncle Ben? Oyl! The poor guy can't even find peace in his private life! And his costume identity doesn't have it any easier! Hunted by the cops for stealing a skeleton from the morgue? I'd think the NYPD would have better crimes to investigate! Or was it just because JJJ made such a fuss?

And I'd figured the main reason for revealing Ben as the original Spider-Man was to free his character of all the baggage he'd acquired over the last 20 years, since it has now been revealed that it was the clone who had bonded with the Venom symbiote. So what do you do? Have Ben get bonded to the Carnage symbiote!! Sheesh! So much for learning from his clone's mistakes!

Speaking of the Carnage symbiote, has it left Kasady to play musical chairs with multiple hosts? And it can somehow distinguish Ben from Peter? I've been waiting for the Venom symbiote to do that, over in VENOM: ALONG CAME A SPIDER. Instead, it looks like the Carnage symbiote is one up on its "parent!"

Jessica Carradine selling pics to the Daily Bugle? Anything to get the Bugle and its staff back into the Spidey books! If I want to see the happenings at a neighborhood coffee house, I'll watch "Friends!"

Well, at least Ben's web-shooters didn't jam in this issue!

Bob Kowalski
3878 Garvin Street
Detroit, MI 48212-2340

The reason the police gave the Spider-skeleton case so much attention was not so much that Spider-Man stole a skeleton from the morgue, but that Jameson had perpetuated (very publicly) the notion that this guy in the new Spidey costume had murdered the guy in the old costume. If you read SPIDER-MAN UNLIMITED #12, you saw that the NYPD only indulged JJJ with this pet obsession for a brief time.

DESIGN BY COMICART

NEXT ISSUE:

It's been brewing in the X-books for a while... now it hits the rest of the Marvel Universe with a vengeance! Onslaught is here, and Manhattan is under siege by the Sentinels! What can one lone web-slinger do against an army of giant killer robots? Find out in thirty suspense-filled days!

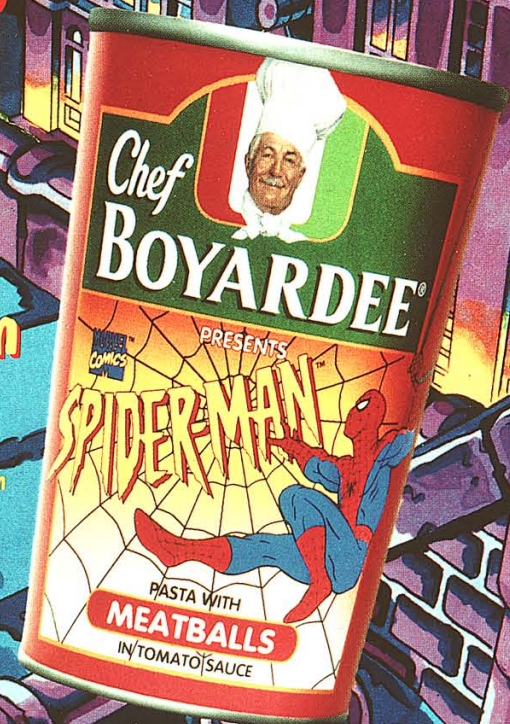
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